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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Stephen O. Friend, Edward W.S. :
Bryant and Harold C. Fowler : DECISION REFUSING STATUS
Application No. 09/882,464 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.47(a)
Filed: June 14, 2001 :
For: MULTILAYERED POLYMERIC
STRUCTURE

This is in response to the "Petition Under 37 CFR 1.47(a)," filed February 4, 2002. The application file was recently forwarded to this office for review.

The petition is dismissed.

Rule 47 applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the mailing date of this decision to reply, correcting the below-noted deficiencies. Any reply should be entitled "Request for Reconsideration of Petition Under 37 CFR 1.47(a)," and should only address the deficiencies noted below, except that the reply may include an oath or declaration executed by the non-signing inventor.

FAILURE TO RESPOND WILL RESULT IN ABANDONMENT OF THE APPLICATION.
Any extensions of time will be governed by 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The above-identified application was filed on June 14, 2001 without an executed oath or declaration and naming Stephen O. Friend, Edward W.S. Bryant and Harold C. Fowler as joint inventors.

Accordingly, on July 5, 2001, a "Notice to File Missing Parts of Application" was mailed, requiring an executed oath or declaration, and a surcharge for its late filing.

In response, on February 4, 2002, the instant petition and a four (4) month extension of time were filed.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) requires:

- (1) proof that the non-signing inventor cannot be reached or refuses to sign the oath or declaration after having been presented with the application papers (specification, claims and drawings);
- (2) an acceptable oath or declaration in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 115 and 116;
- (3) the petition fee; and
- (4) a statement of the last known address of the non-signing inventor.

Applicant lacks items (1) and (2), as set forth above.

As to item (1), applicant appears to demonstrate that the non-signing inventor was only presented with the declaration. Unless the non-signing inventor was presented with a copy of the application papers (specification, claims and drawings), the non-signing inventor could not attest that he has "reviewed and understands the application papers" and therefore could not sign the declaration which he was given. Accordingly, Rule 47 applicant failed to show or provide proof that the inventor has refused to sign the declaration. See MPEP 409.03(d). Petitioner should show that a copy of the application papers was presented to the non-signing inventor, but that he did not respond to, or refused, the request that he sign the oath/declaration in order to show that the inventor has refused to join in the application. The proof of the pertinent events should be made by a statement of someone with first hand knowledge of the events.

As to item (2), an oath or declaration for the patent application in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 and 1.64 still has not been presented. The declaration does not set forth the citizenship or residence of the non-signing inventor. An oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 and 1.64 is REQUIRED. See MPEP 409.03(a).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
 Commissioner for Patents
 Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313

By FAX: (703) 872-9306
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3228.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. J. Tannouse', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Edward J. Tannouse
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions
United States Patent and Trademark Office